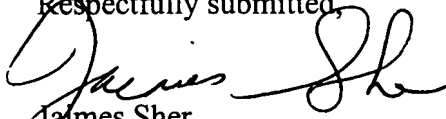


such carboxylates would still act as nothing more than an ion exchange material. As explained above, Applicants' invention does not involve ion exchange materials. In view of these remarks it is respectfully submitted that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that all claims 1, 4-10, 13-20 and 23-39 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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